WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video signal recording apparatus for digitally recording a first video signal containing information representing a copyrighted work and information representing a non-copyrighted work, comprising:

copyright information detecting means which extracts copyright information inserted in the first video signal;

active pixel period detecting means which detects an active pixel period of the first video signal, and generates an active period decision signal;

video signal output means which outputs a second video signal containing information representing another non-copyrighted work;

video signal generating means which generates a third video signal by replacing the first video signal by the second video signal in the active period when it is determined based on the copyright information and the active period decision signal that the first video signal represents the information representing the copyrighted work; and

digital recording means which digitally records the third video signal on a recording medium as one video file.

2. The video signal recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the video signal output means outputs a fixed value signal having a predetermined fixed value.

3. The video signal recording apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

boundary detecting means which detects a boundary between the copyrighted work and the non-copyrighted work in the first video signal; and

file structure information generating means which generates file structure information indicative of a relation between the boundary and the copyrighted work in the video file, wherein

the digital recording means digitally records the file structure information.

4. The video signal recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the video signal output means outputs the second video signal by scrambling the first video signal with a predetermined scramble key.

5. The video signal recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the first video signal is an analog signal, and

the boundary detecting means is a clock capable of

identifying a period shorter than a frame period of the first video signal.

6. The video signal recording apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

the first video signal is a digital signal, and

the boundary detecting means is based on PCR included in the first video signal.